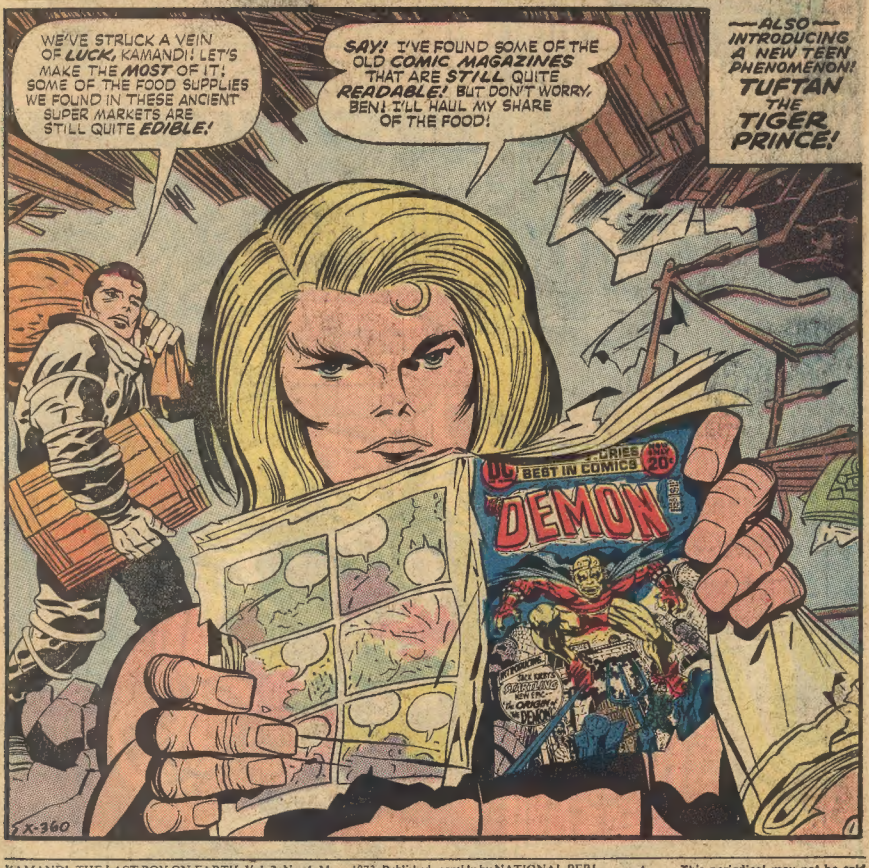
TODAY'S PLAYGROUND MAY BE TOMORROW'S BATTLEGROUND! SEE IT HAPPEN IN THE WORLD OF
DC
KAMANDI
20¢
KAMANDI
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 4
MAR.
30566
THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!
A HUMAN! HE MUST NOT ESCAPE!
HENDERSON SHOPPING SQUARE
ALSO
MEET TUFTAN!
PRINCE of TIGERS--
MASTER of MEN!

WHAT WOULD THE WORLD BE LIKE AFTER A NATURAL DISASTER OF CYCLOPEAN PROPORTIONS HAD SWEPT THE EARTH WITH DEADLY EFFECT? IN THE WORLD OF KAMANDI, THIS SOBER QUESTION IS ANSWERED! MAN IS NO LONGER THE MASTER OF ALL HE SURVEYS! THE ONCE LOWLY BEAST HAS RISEN TO BID FOR THIS POWER! THIS IS WHERE WE BEGIN --- IN THE RUINS OF A SUBURB NEAR LAS VEGAS! IT SHALL END IN THE BLOODY SAND OF ---

CHAPTER ONE THE DEVIL'S ARENA!


WE'VE STRUCK A VEIN OF LUCK, KAMANDI! LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT! SOME OF THE FOOD SUPPLIES WE FOUND IN THESE ANCIENT SUPER MARKETS ARE STILL QUITE EDIBLE!
SAY! I'VE FOUND SOME OF THE OLD COMIC MAGAZINES THAT ARE STILL QUITE READABLE! BUT DON'T WORRY, BEN! I'LL HAUL MY SHARE OF THE FOOD!
—ALSO— INTRODUCING A NEW TEEN PHENOMENON! TUFTAN THE TIGER PRINCE!
DC COMICS
BEST IN COMICS
DEMON
X-360

KAMANDI, THE LAST BOY ON EARTH, Vol. 2, No. 4, Mar., 1973. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Jack Kirby, Editor. Steve Sherman, Assistant Editor. Sol Harrison, Production Manager. Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Copyright © 1973 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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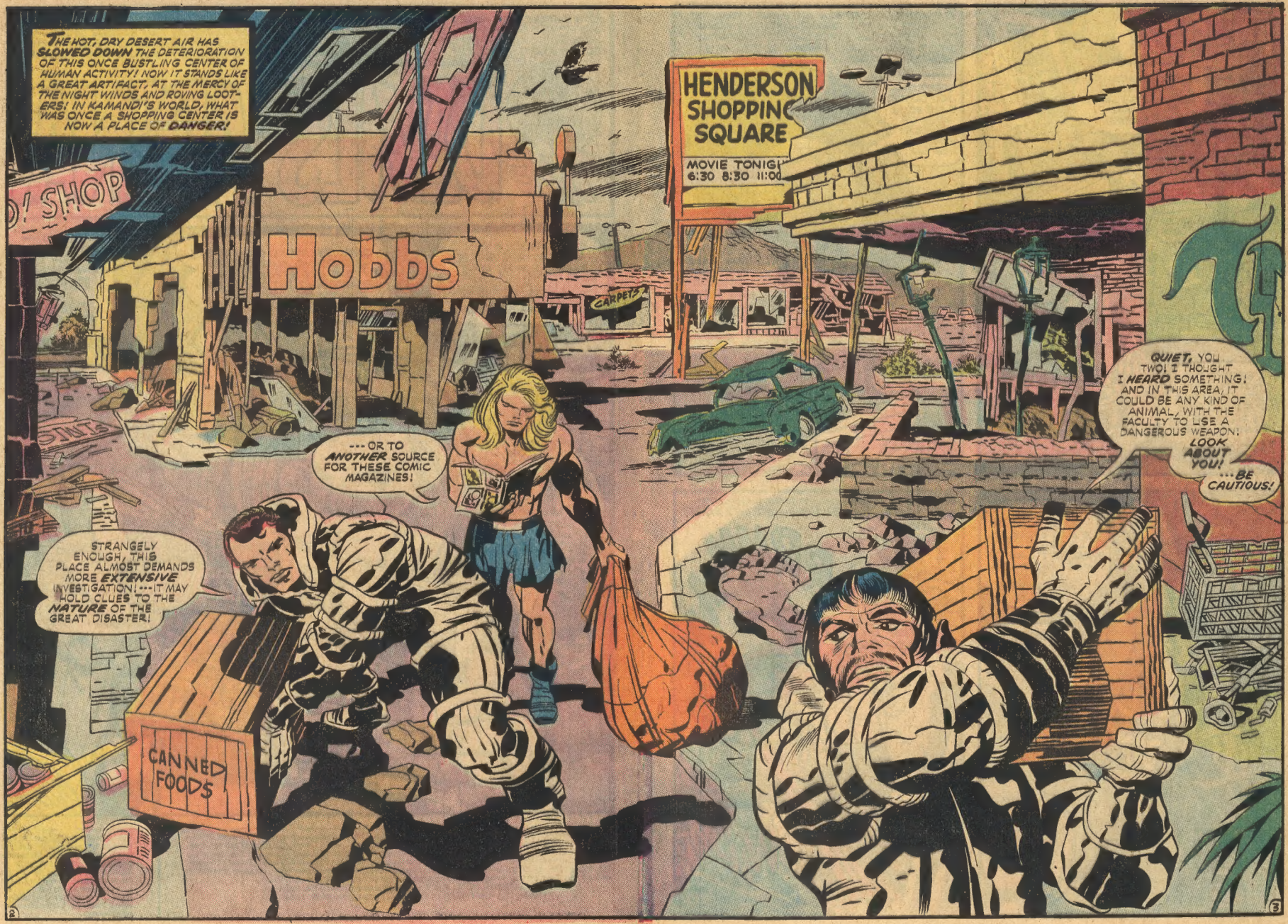
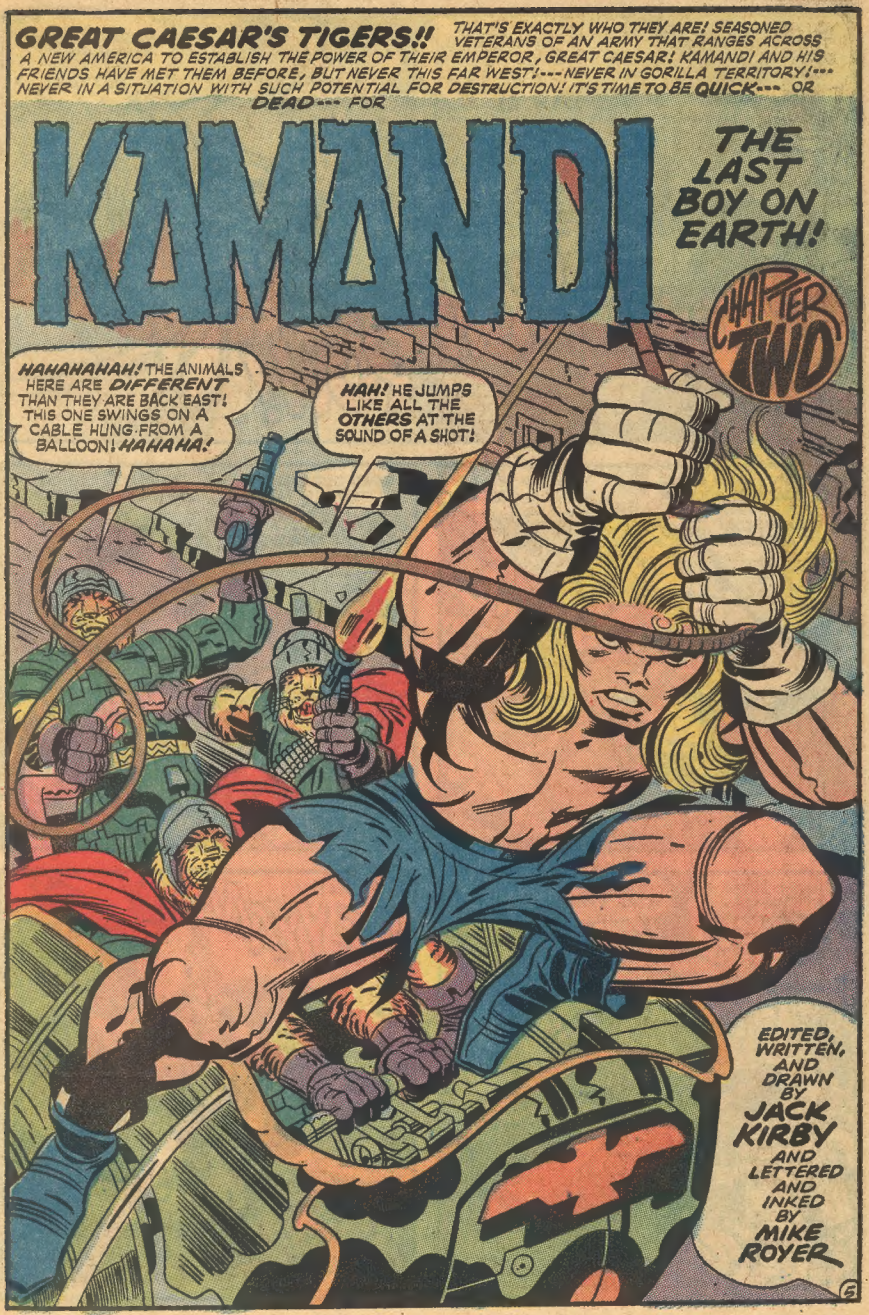

THE HOT, DRY DESERT AIR HAS SLOWED DOWN THE DETERIORATION OF THIS ONCE BUSTLING CENTER OF HUMAN ACTIVITY! NOW IT STANDS LIKE A GREAT ARTIFACT, AT THE MERCY OF THE NIGHT WINDS AND ROVING LOOTERS! IN KAMANDI'S WORLD, WHAT WAS ONCE A SHOPPING CENTER IS NOW A PLACE OF DANGER!
HENDERSON SHOPPING SQUARE
MOVIE TONIGHT
6:30 8:30 11:00
Hobbs
CARPETS
STRANGELY ENOUGH, THIS PLACE ALMOST DEMANDS MORE EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION!--IT MAY HOLD CLUES TO THE NATURE OF THE GREAT DISASTER!
--- OR TO ANOTHER SOURCE FOR THESE COMIC MAGAZINES!
CANNED FOODS
QUIET, YOU TWO! I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING! AND IN THIS AREA, IT COULD BE ANY KIND OF ANIMAL, WITH THE FACULTY TO USE A DANGEROUS WEAPON! LOOK ABOUT YOU! ...BE CAUTIOUS!
2
3

YOU MUST READ THESE TWO BOOKS! THEY'VE GOT SUPER-HEROES THAT ARE REALLY "FAR-OUT!"
LATER, KAMANDI! --- WHEN WE'VE REACHED THE SAFETY OF OUR AIR-TRAVELER!
CANNED FOODS
I SECOND THE MOTION, BEN! LET'S LOAD THIS STUFF AND RIDE THE AIR CURRENTS TO HOME BASE!
THE AIR-TRAVELER IS A HUGE DIRIGIBLE-LIKE AIRCRAFT WHICH IS TAKING KAMANDI'S FRIENDS TO A MYSTERIOUS PLACE CALLED "TRACKING-SITE!" KAMANDI HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS AN ADDITIONAL CREW MEMBER!
SPEED IT UP, YOU DUDES! I SEE SOME KIND OF VEHICLE HEADING THIS WAY!
I'LL TAKE THE COMPANY IN THIS ONE! BEN! KAMANDI! LET'S GO!
COMING, RENZI!
GOING UP, KAMANDI! GRAB A MAGNI-CABLE! LIKE RENZI, I WOULDN'T LIKE TO MEET WHOEVER'S IN THAT APPROACHING VEHICLE!
GORILLAS, MOST LIKELY! I'VE HAD ABOUT ALL OF THEIR SOCIAL MANNERS I CAN TAKE!
AS THOUGH IT WAS HOMING IN ON KAMANDI'S VERY WORDS, THE VEHICLE BURSTS INTO SIGHT!
YEEOW! THEY'RE HERE!
RRMMMM
THEY'RE NEITHER GORILLAS ---NOR SOCIABLE! THEY'RE TIGERS!
WHUMP
4


GREAT CAESAR'S TIGERS!!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHO THEY ARE! SEASONED VETERANS OF AN ARMY THAT RANGES ACROSS A NEW AMERICA TO ESTABLISH THE POWER OF THEIR EMPEROR, GREAT CAESAR! KAMANDI AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE MET THEM BEFORE, BUT NEVER THIS FAR WEST!---NEVER IN GORILLA TERRITORY!---NEVER IN A SITUATION WITH SUCH POTENTIAL FOR DESTRUCTION! IT'S TIME TO BE QUICK--- OR DEAD--- FOR
KAMANDI
THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!
CHAPTER TWO
HAHAHAHAH! THE ANIMALS HERE ARE DIFFERENT THAN THEY ARE BACK EAST! THIS ONE SWINGS ON A CABLE HUNG FROM A BALLOON! HAHAHA!
HAH! HE JUMPS LIKE ALL THE OTHERS AT THE SOUND OF A SHOT!
EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY AND LETTERED AND INKED BY MIKE ROYER
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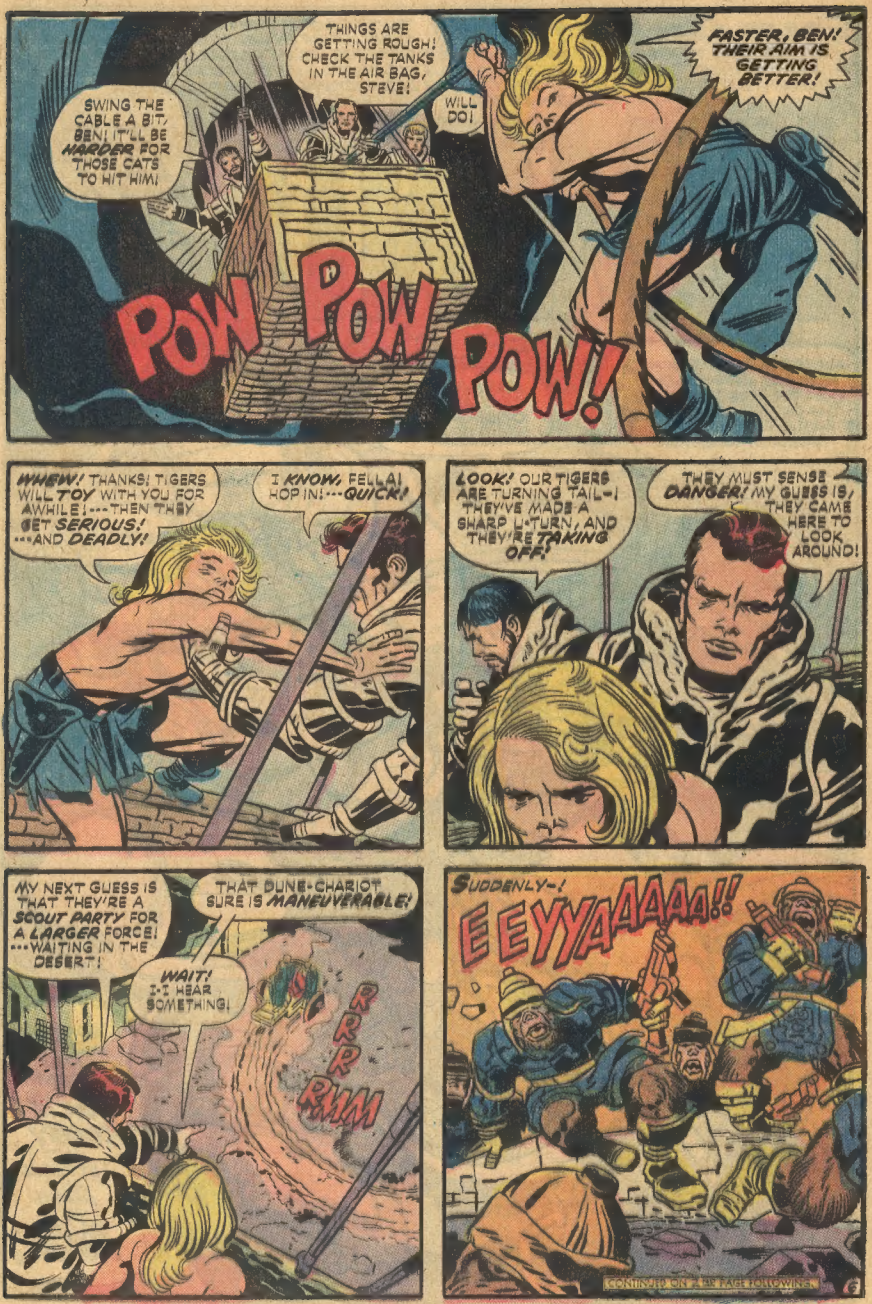
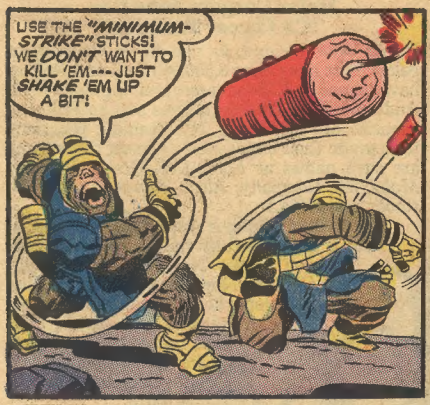
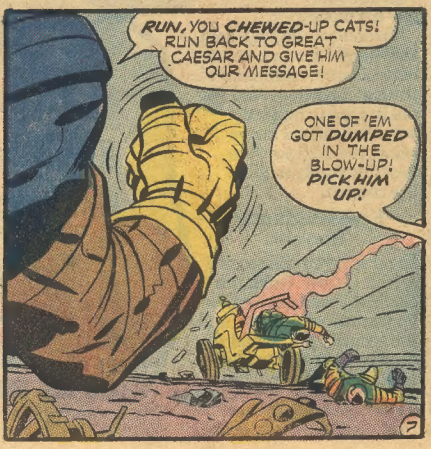

SWING THE CABLE A BIT, BEN! IT'LL BE HARDER FOR THOSE CATS TO HIT HIM!
THINGS ARE GETTING ROUGH! CHECK THE TANKS IN THE AIR BAG, STEVE!
WILL DO!
FASTER, BEN! THEIR AIM IS GETTING BETTER!
POW POW POW!
WHEW! THANKS! TIGERS WILL TOY WITH YOU FOR AWHILE!---THEN THEY GET SERIOUS! ---AND DEADLY!
I KNOW, FELLA! HOP IN!---QUICK!
LOOK! OUR TIGERS ARE TURNING TAIL-! THEY'VE MADE A SHARP U-TURN, AND THEY'RE TAKING OFF!
THEY MUST SENSE DANGER! MY GUESS IS, THEY CAME HERE TO LOOK AROUND!
MY NEXT GUESS IS THAT THEY'RE A SCOUT PARTY FOR A LARGER FORCE! ---WAITING IN THE DESERT!
THAT DUNE-CHARIOT SURE IS MANEUVERABLE!
WAIT! I-I HEAR SOMETHING!
RRRR RMM
SUDDENLY-!
EEYYAAAAA!!
CONTINUED ON 2 MORE PAGE FOLLOWING

HOLD IT, RIGHT THERE! PULL UP, OR WE'LL SHOOT TO KILL!
YOU HEARD US! SLOW DOWN AND SURRENDER YOUR WEAPONS!!
BUZZ OFF, YOU GRUNTS! GET OUT OF OUR WAY!
ARROGANT SWINE! WE'LL STOP YOU! THROW YOUR BOOMERS, MEN!

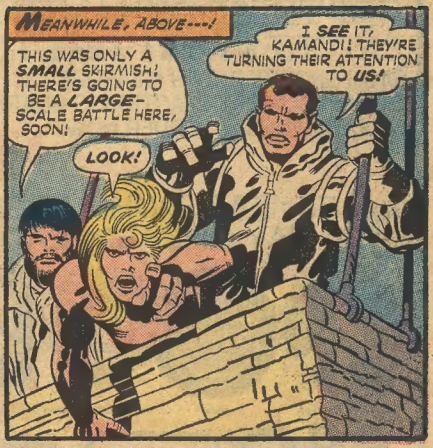

USE THE "MINIMUM-STRIKE" STICKS! WE DON'T WANT TO KILL 'EM--- JUST SHAKE 'EM UP A BIT!

WHOOMP!

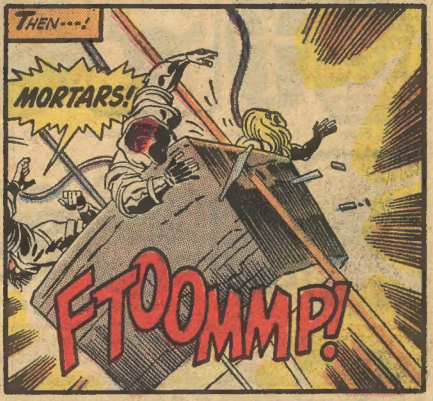
HAHAHAHAH! GREAT CAESAR'S LEGIONNAIRES! THEY'RE MORE LIKE PAMPERED, PUFFED-UP ZOMBIES!
---A RECONNAISSANCE UNIT! THEY RODE IN LOOKING FOR ACTION, AND GOT IT! ---AND WE'LL GIVE 'EM LOTS MORE WHEN THEY COME BACK HERE LOOKING FOR MORE!


RUN, YOU CHEWED-UP CATS! RUN BACK TO GREAT CAESAR AND GIVE HIM OUR MESSAGE!
ONE OF 'EM GOT DUMPED IN THE BLOW-UP! PICK HIM UP!

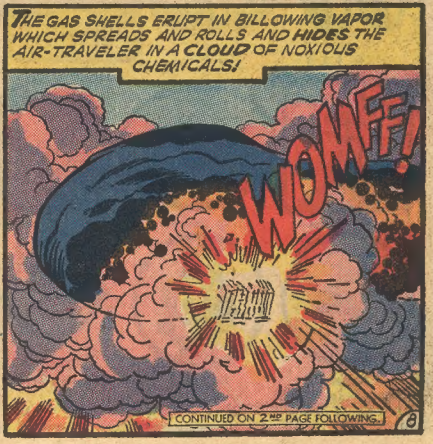
SAY! THIS ONE'S WEARING A ROYAL HEAD-BAND!
WE'VE GOT US A REAL PRIZE! TUFTAN!---GREAT CAESAR'S SON!

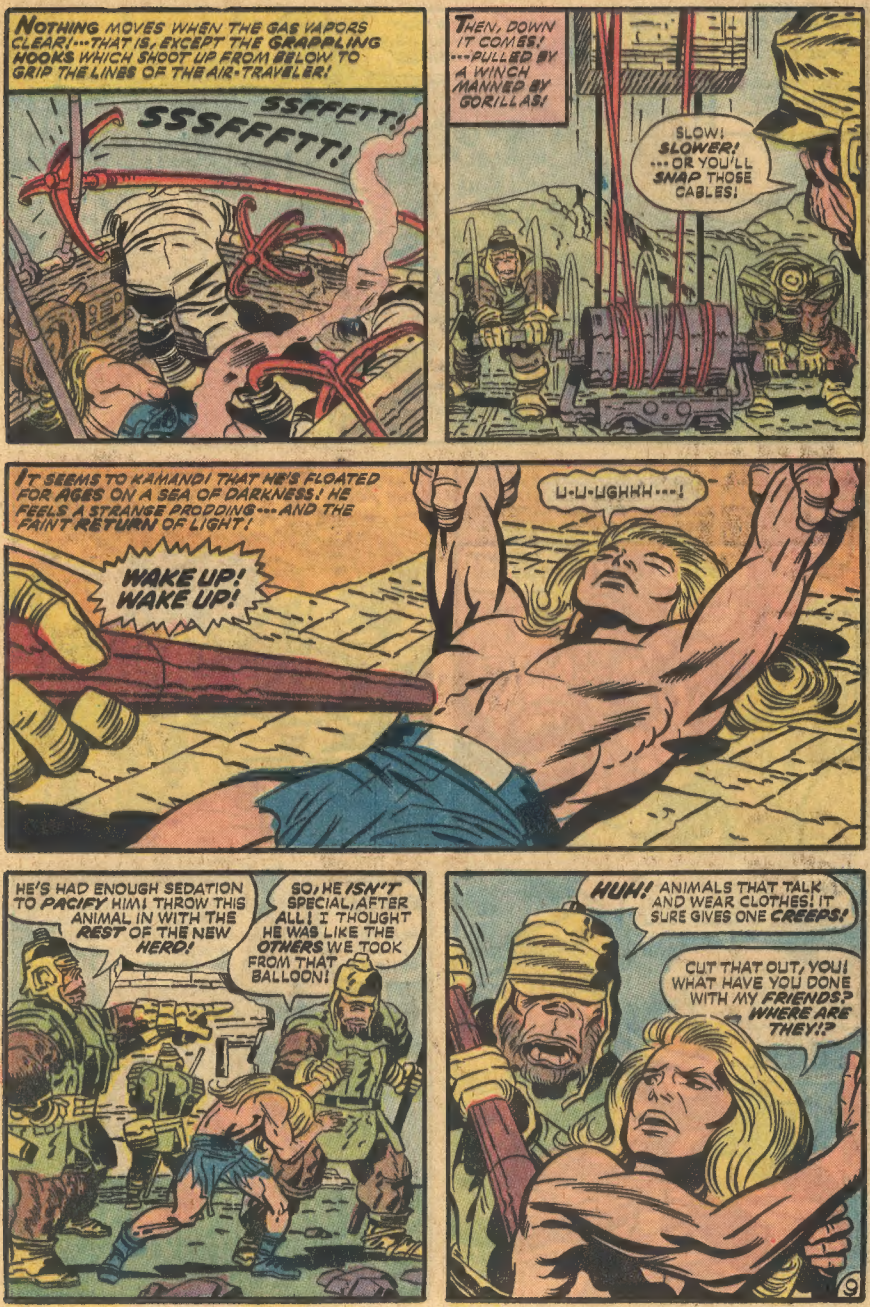

MEANWHILE, ABOVE---!
THIS WAS ONLY A SMALL SKIRMISH! THERE'S GOING TO BE A LARGE-SCALE BATTLE HERE, SOON!
I SEE IT, KAMANDI! THEY'RE TURNING THEIR ATTENTION TO US!
LOOK!

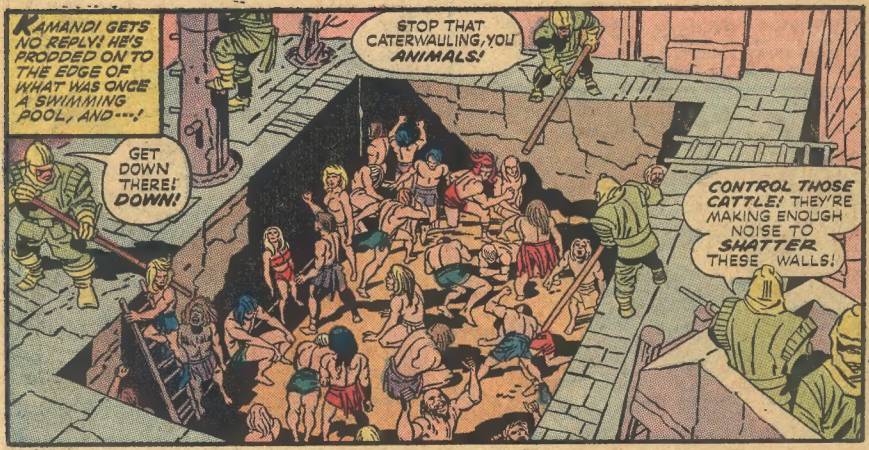
IF THEY DAMAGE THE AIR-BAG, WE'LL FALL! CAN THIS THING MOVE FAST IF IT HAS TO-?
WE'LL BE UNDER-WAY AS SOON AS STEVE CHECKS THE AIR TANKS!
BRACE YOURSELVES! THE GORILLA'S ARE BRINGING UP---

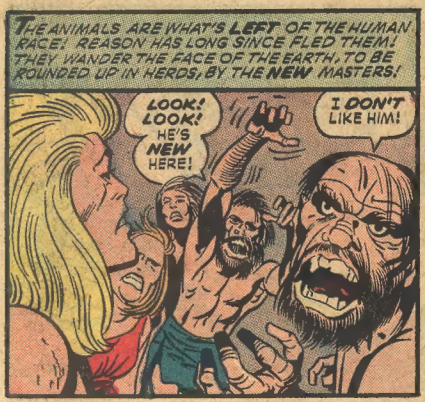

THEN---!
MORTARS!
FTOOMMP!

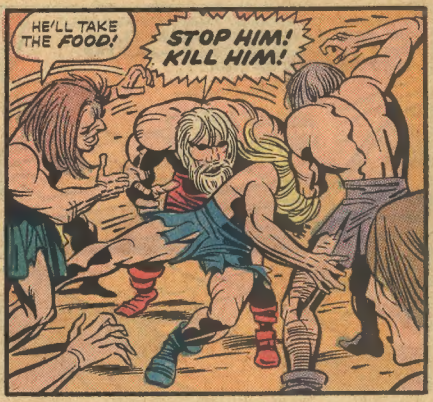
THAT JOLT REALLY SHOOK US UP! WE'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!
I WISH STEVE WOULD GET THIS BALLOON MOVING!
OH-OH! GAS SHELLS! GET DOWN AND PRESS YOUR FACE TO THE FLOOR!


THE GAS SHELLS ERUPT IN BILLOWING VAPOR WHICH SPREADS AND ROLLS AND HIDES THE AIR-TRAVELER IN A CLOUD OF NOXIOUS CHEMICALS!
WOMFF!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

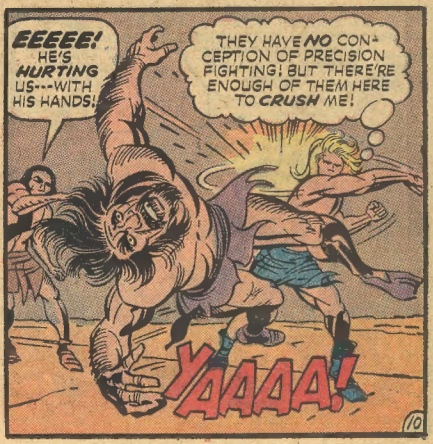

NOTHING MOVES WHEN THE GAS VAPORS CLEAR!---THAT IS, EXCEPT THE GRAPPLING HOOKS WHICH SHOOT UP FROM BELOW TO GRIP THE LINES OF THE AIR-TRAVELER!
SSSFFFTT!
SSSFFFTT!
THEN, DOWN IT COMES!---PULLED BY A WINCH MANNED BY GORILLAS!
SLOW! SLOWER! ---OR YOU'LL SNAP THOSE CABLES!
IT SEEMS TO KAMANDI THAT HE'S FLOATED FOR AGES ON A SEA OF DARKNESS! HE FEELS A STRANGE PRODDING---AND THE FAINT RETURN OF LIGHT!
WAKE UP! WAKE UP!
U-U-UGHHH---!
HE'S HAD ENOUGH SEDATION TO PACIFY HIM! THROW THIS ANIMAL IN WITH THE REST OF THE NEW HERD!
SO, HE ISN'T SPECIAL, AFTER ALL! I THOUGHT HE WAS LIKE THE OTHERS WE TOOK FROM THAT BALLOON!
HUH! ANIMALS THAT TALK AND WEAR CLOTHES! IT SURE GIVES ONE CREEPS!
CUT THAT OUT, YOU! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY FRIENDS? WHERE ARE THEY!?
9


KAMANDI GETS NO REPLY! HE'S PRODDED ON TO THE EDGE OF WHAT WAS ONCE A SWIMMING POOL, AND---!
STOP THAT CATERWAULING, YOU ANIMALS!
GET DOWN THERE! DOWN!
CONTROL THOSE CATTLE! THEY'RE MAKING ENOUGH NOISE TO SHATTER THESE WALLS!

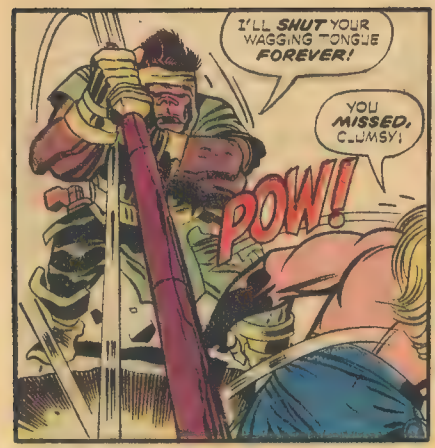

THE ANIMALS ARE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE HUMAN RACE! REASON HAS LONG SINCE FLED THEM! THEY WANDER THE FACE OF THE EARTH, TO BE ROUNDED UP IN HERDS, BY THE NEW MASTERS!
LOOK! LOOK! HE'S NEW HERE!
I DON'T LIKE HIM!

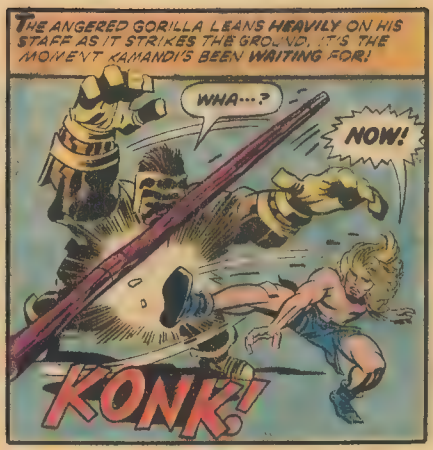

HE'LL TAKE THE FOOD!
STOP HIM! KILL HIM!

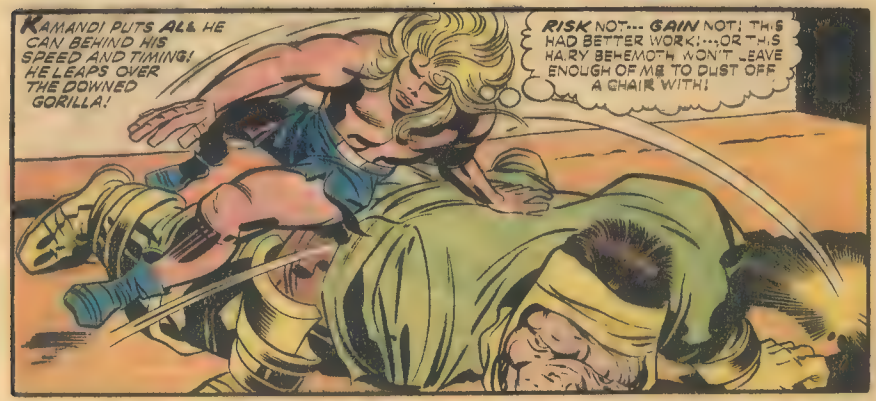
AAH!
NOT SO FAST, YOU MINDLESS, SMELLY FOOLS!

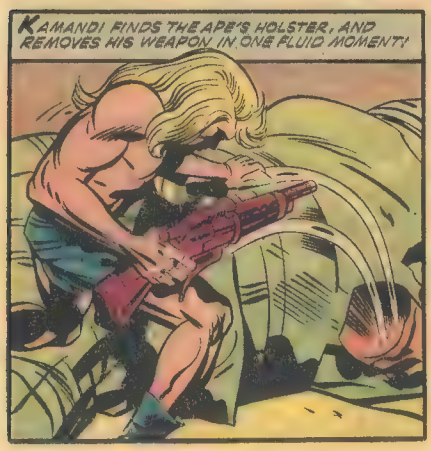

EEEEE! HE'S HURTING US---WITH HIS HANDS!
THEY HAVE NO CONCEPTION OF PRECISION FIGHTING! BUT THERE'RE ENOUGH OF THEM HERE TO CRUSH ME!
YAAAA!

YOU, DOWN THERE! STOP THAT BRAWLING! --- OR I'LL---
STUFF YOUR THREATS DOWN YOUR BACK POCKET!
THAT'S IT! THIS BIG APE COULD BE MY WAY TO FREEDOM!
SO---YOU'RE THE TALKING ANIMAL I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT! YOUR MOUTH'S BIGGER'N I HEARD IT WAS!
YOU'RE ALL WIND, YOURSELF! WITHOUT THAT BIG STICK, YOU COULDN'T FIGHT A GROUNDED GOOSE!
HAHAHAHAH! THAT LITTLE BEAST SURE KNOWS HOW TO NEEDLE A GUY-!
GIVE HIM A POKE! THAT'LL QUIET HIM DOWN!
HE'LL GET MORE'N A GOOD POKE! I'M GOIN' IN AFTER HIM!
BE MY GUEST, YOU BLUNDERING IDIOT! THEY'LL HAVE TO CARRY YOU OUT!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
COME ON! COME ON! I'M WAITING FOR YOU, BEEFY!
THE GORILLA'S EYES BLAZE RED WITH FURY! WHEN HE REACHES KAMANDI, HE IS READY TO KILL!
YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS NOW, ANIMAL! YOUR CARCASS WILL BE WORTHLESS WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU---!
YOU'RE A DREAMER, AS WELL AS A FOOL!


I'LL SHUT YOUR WAGGING TONGUE FOREVER!
YOU MISSED, CLUMSY!
POW!

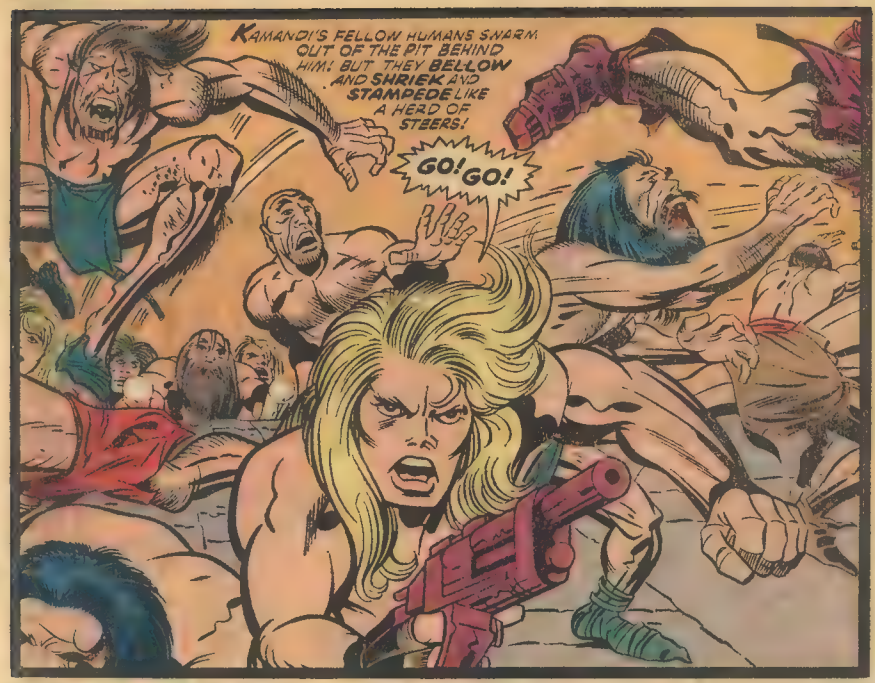

THE ANGERED GORILLA LEANS HEAVILY ON HIS STAFF AS IT STRIKES THE GROUND. IT'S THE MOMENT KAMANDI'S BEEN WAITING FOR!
WHA...?
NOW!
KONK!

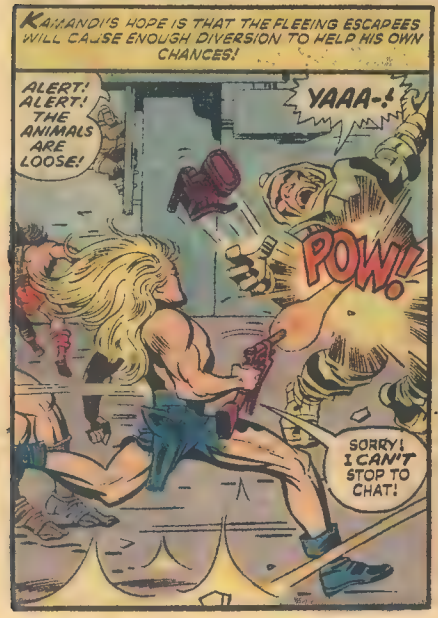

KAMANDI PUTS ALL HE CAN BEHIND HIS SPEED AND TIMING! HE LEAPS OVER THE DOWNED GORILLA!
RISK NOT... GAIN NOT! THIS HAD BETTER WORK!...OR THIS HAIRY BEHEMOTH WON'T LEAVE ENOUGH OF ME TO DUST OFF A CHAIR WITH!


KAMANDI FINDS THE APE'S HOLSTER, AND REMOVES HIS WEAPON IN ONE FLUID MOMENT!

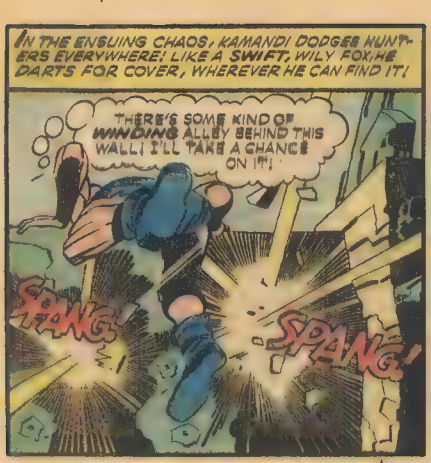
YOU TRICKY LITTLE BEAST! YOU'VE SWIPED MY GUN! COME BACK WITH THAT, YOU...
I'LL SEND IT TO YOU WHEN I REACH MY NEXT MAILING ADDRESS.
SO LONG, DUNCE!

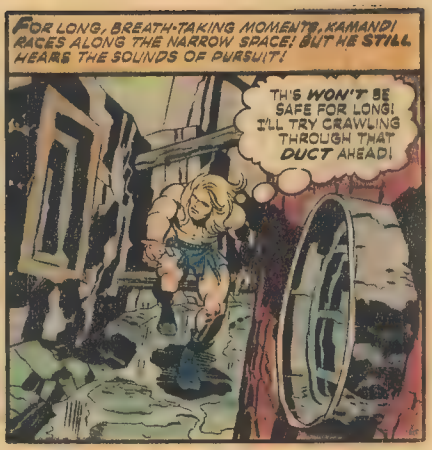
OF COURSE, IF YOU TRY TO TAKE IT FROM ME, NOW--- SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN!
AAA-!
BLAM!
THE SOUND OF THE SHOT BRINGS QUICK REACTION! KAMANDI FINDS HIMSELF IN A SHOOT-OUT WITH THE GUARDS!
AN ANIMAL--- DROPPING A GUARD WITH HIS OWN GUN!
PYOOM!
---AND I KNOW HOW TO USE IT, TOO! HOW'S THAT FOR SHOOTING?
WHAM!
AND YOU-!---THE CHOICE IS YOURS, TOO! FREEDOM OR DEATH! CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
WE SEE THE LADDER! WE CAN ESCAPE!
THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE MIRACLES! LET'S GO! FOLLOW ME, AND FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

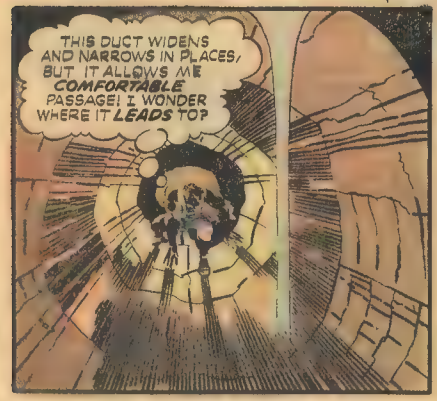

KAMANDI'S FELLOW HUMANS SWARM OUT OF THE PIT BEHIND HIM! BUT THEY BELLOW AND SHRIEK AND STAMPEDE LIKE A HERD OF STEERS!
GO! GO!

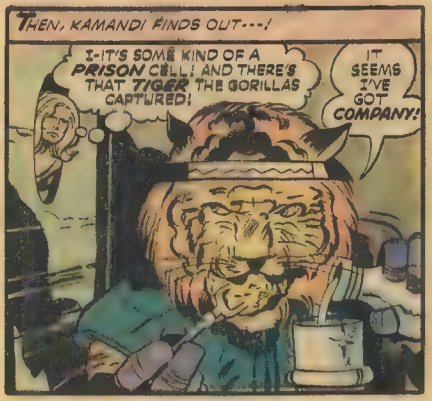

KAMANDI'S HOPE IS THAT THE FLEEING ESCAPEES WILL CAUSE ENOUGH DIVERSION TO HELP HIS OWN CHANCES!
ALERT! ALERT! THE ANIMALS ARE LOOSE!
YAAA-!
POW!
SORRY! I CAN'T STOP TO CHAT!

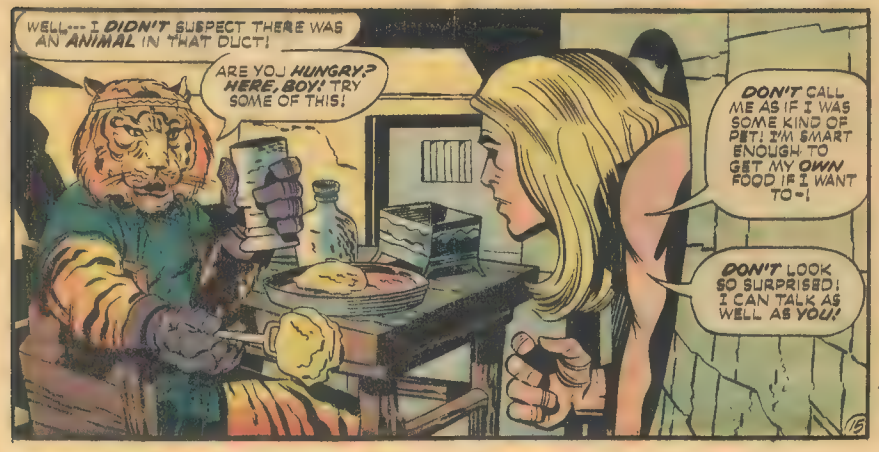
MEANWHILE, THE STREETS BEGIN TO FILL WITH ALARMED GORILLAS!
HOW DID THEY GET OUT? WHERE ARE THE GUARDS?
NEVER MIND! ROUND 'EM ALL UP! HOP TO IT!

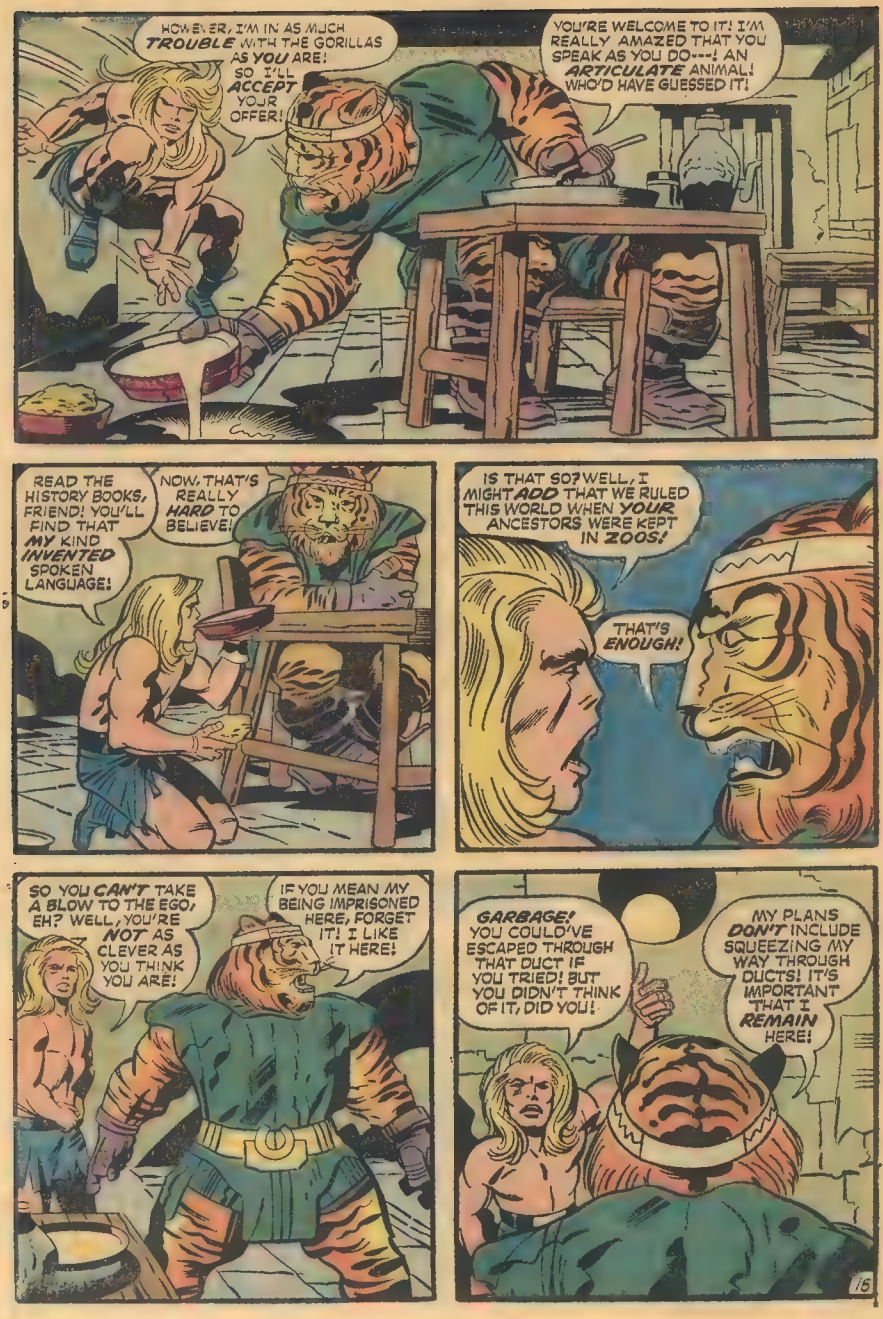

IN THE ENSUING CHAOS, KAMANDI DODGES HUNTERS EVERYWHERE! LIKE A SWIFT, WILY FOX, HE DARTS FOR COVER, WHEREVER HE CAN FIND IT!
THERE'S SOME KIND OF WINDING ALLEY BEHIND THIS WALL! I'LL TAKE A CHANCE ON IT!
SPANG!
SPANG!


FOR LONG, BREATH-TAKING MOMENTS, KAMANDI RACES ALONG THE NARROW SPACE! BUT HE STILL HEARS THE SOUNDS OF PURSUIT!
TH'S WON'T BE SAFE FOR LONG! I'LL TRY CRAWLING THROUGH THAT DUCT AHEAD!


THIS DUCT WIDENS AND NARROWS IN PLACES, BUT IT ALLOWS ME COMFORTABLE PASSAGE! I WONDER WHERE IT LEADS TO?


THEN, KAMANDI FINDS OUT---!
I-IT'S SOME KIND OF A PRISON CELL! AND THERE'S THAT TIGER THE GORILLAS CAPTURED!
IT SEEMS I'VE GOT COMPANY!

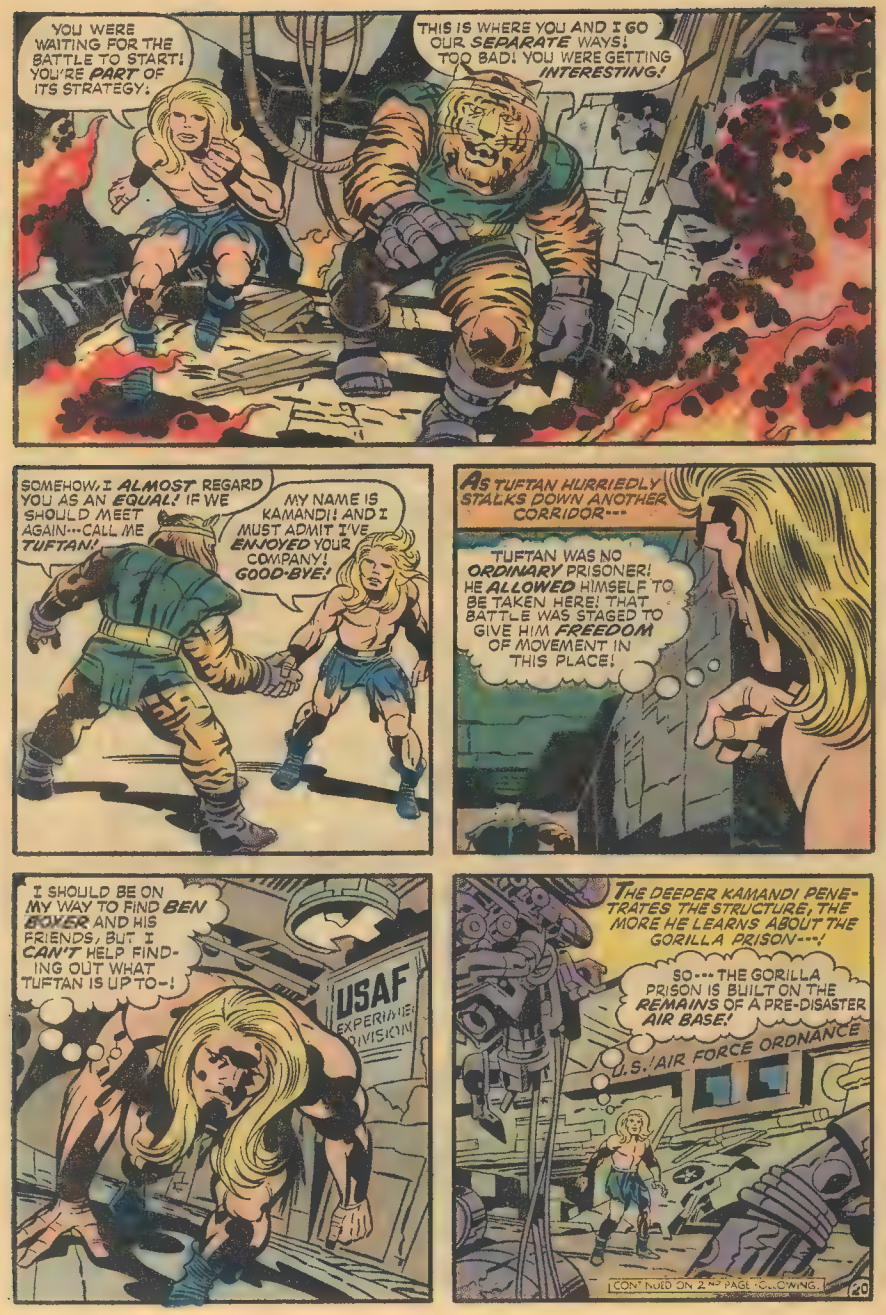

WELL--- I DIDN'T SUSPECT THERE WAS AN ANIMAL IN THAT DUCT!
ARE YOU HUNGRY? HERE, BOY! TRY SOME OF THIS!
DON'T CALL ME AS IF I WAS SOME KIND OF PET! I'M SMART ENOUGH TO GET MY OWN FOOD IF I WANT TO--!
DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED! I CAN TALK AS WELL AS YOU!

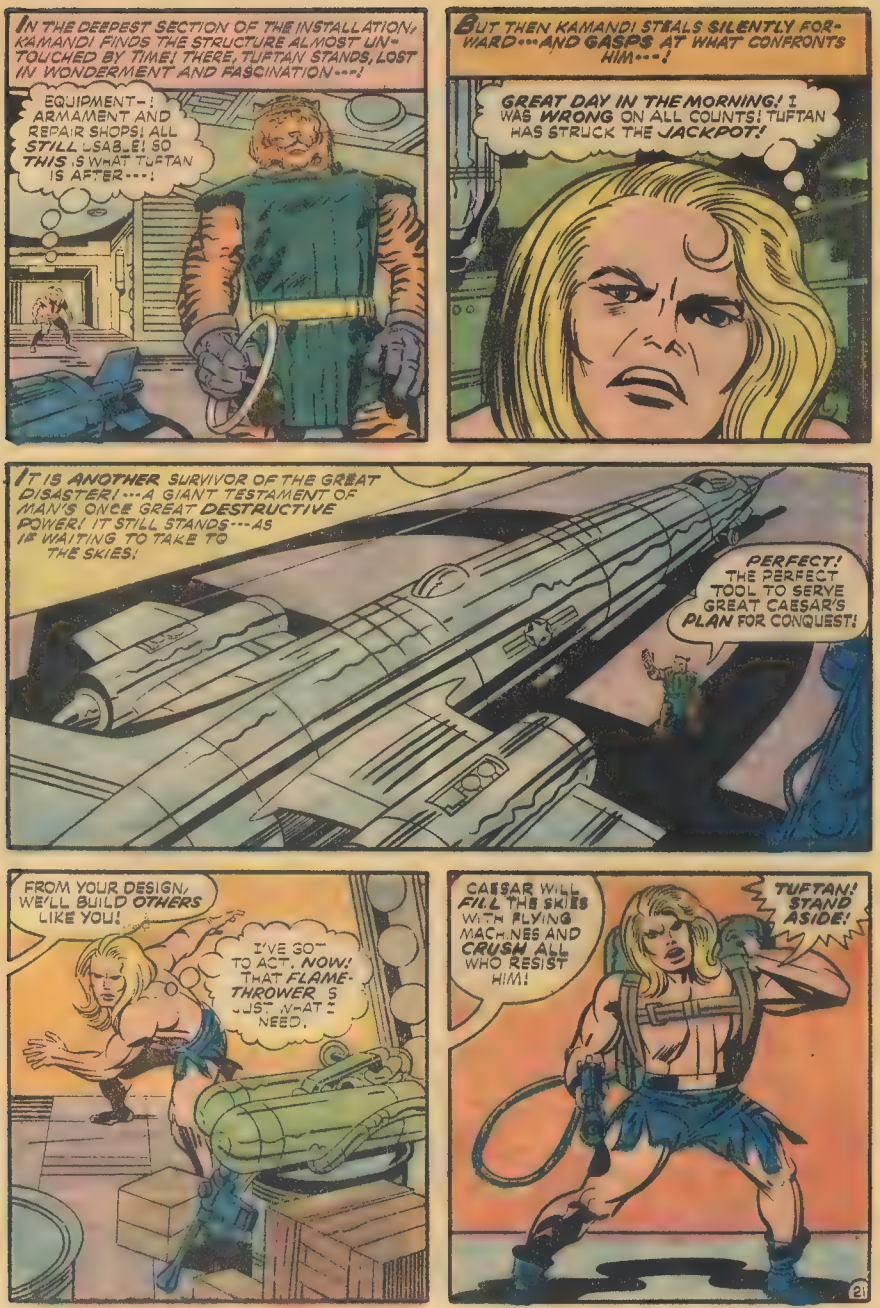

HOWEVER, I'M IN AS MUCH TROUBLE WITH THE GORILLAS AS YOU ARE! SO I'LL ACCEPT YOUR OFFER!
YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT! I'M REALLY AMAZED THAT YOU SPEAK AS YOU DO---! AN ARTICULATE ANIMAL! WHO'D HAVE GUESSED IT!
READ THE HISTORY BOOKS, FRIEND! YOU'LL FIND THAT MY KIND INVENTED SPOKEN LANGUAGE!
NOW, THAT'S REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE!
IS THAT SO? WELL, I MIGHT ADD THAT WE RULED THIS WORLD WHEN YOUR ANCESTORS WERE KEPT IN ZOOS!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
SO YOU CAN'T TAKE A BLOW TO THE EGO, EH? WELL, YOU'RE NOT AS CLEVER AS YOU THINK YOU ARE!
IF YOU MEAN MY BEING IMPRISONED HERE, FORGET IT! I LIKE IT HERE!
GARBAGE! YOU COULD'VE ESCAPED THROUGH THAT DUCT IF YOU TRIED! BUT YOU DIDN'T THINK OF IT, DID YOU!
MY PLANS DON'T INCLUDE SQUEEZING MY WAY THROUGH DUCTS! IT'S IMPORTANT THAT I REMAIN HERE!
15

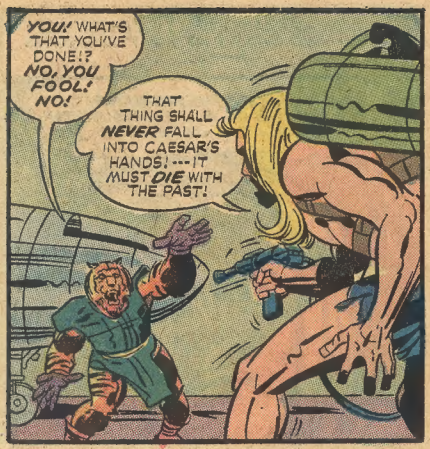
SO YOU'RE A CAT WHO LIKES HIS PRISON, EH? WHY? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THESE DUMPY QUARTERS?
IT'S THE RIGHT PLACE TO BE! --- WHEN THE RIGHT MOMENT ARRIVES!
AND OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THE GORILLA OUT-POST, AN ARMY WAITS FOR THE RIGHT ORDER!
BATTALIONS AT READY! ARTILLERY-LAUNCH BATTERING RAMS!
RAMS AWAY!
WHOOSH!
WHOOOOOSH!
ALL TROOPS, FORWARD!
KARRASH!
ALARM! ALARM! THE GATES HAVE BEEN SMASHED! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
FOLLOW CAESAR TO VICTORY!
CHARGE!
17

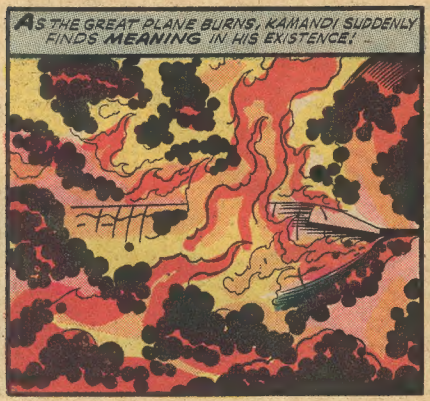
THE DEVIL'S ARENA IS WAR! ITS SIDES ARE BUILT OF BONES! ITS FIELDS ARE BLAZING INFERNOS! AND UPON THEM, THE DEADLY GAME OF CONQUEST HAS BEEN PLAYED ETERNALLY BY MAN AND BEAST! IN KAMANDI'S WORLD, THE MASTER OF THE GAME IS GREAT CAESAR!
GET EVERYONE WHO CAN CARRY A WEAPON! STOP THE INVADER!
SMASH THE ENEMY! ONWARD!
CAESAR'S FORCES FIGHT THEIR WAY INTO THE GORILLA STRONGHOLD! DESTRUCTION SPREADS AS THE FURY MOUNTS!
FOWWM
BLAM!
FROM A CELL WINDOW, KAMANDI LISTENS TO THE SOUNDS OF THE BATTLE GROW WITH INTENSITY UNTIL THE FIRING BEGINS TO SPATTER THE WALLS AROUND HIM WITH SHELL AND FLAME!
WOW! THIS PLACE IS BECOMING REAL HAZARDOUS FOR NEUTRALS!
SPOK!
SPOK!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
18

THERE IS A MYSTERIOUS FACET TO THIS FIGHT, WHICH BECOMES MORE EVIDENT TO KAMANDI AS HE WATCHES HIS TIGER CELL-MATE! THE PRISONER'S MUSCLES TIGHTEN LIKE STEEL! HE PRESSES AGAINST HIS CELL BARS WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD--- WAITING FOR HIS STAMPEDING GUARDS TO CLEAR THE CORRIDORS AS THEY RUSH TO JOIN THE BATTLE! KAMANDI SENSES THAT BEYOND THESE WALLS IS THE STRUGGLE, BUT, IN HERE, IS ITS REAL MEANING!
CHAPTER 3
THE WAITING SECRET!!
THIS WAY, GUARDS! WE'RE NEEDED IN THE FIGHTING!
WHEN THE PRISON CORRIDORS ARE EMPTY---!
IT'S TIME TO LEAVE!
CRASH!
YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THAT CELL!---IT WAS SMALL AND DUMPY!
HUH! YOU SURE WAITED FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO ESCAPE!---AS IF YOU KNEW IT WAS COMING!
19


YOU WERE WAITING FOR THE BATTLE TO START! YOU'RE PART OF ITS STRATEGY.
THIS IS WHERE YOU AND I GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS! TOO BAD! YOU WERE GETTING INTERESTING!
SOMEHOW, I ALMOST REGARD YOU AS AN EQUAL! IF WE SHOULD MEET AGAIN---CALL ME TUFTAN!
MY NAME IS KAMANDI! AND I MUST ADMIT I'VE ENJOYED YOUR COMPANY! GOOD-BYE!
AS TUFTAN HURRIEDLY STALKS DOWN ANOTHER CORRIDOR---
TUFTAN WAS NO ORDINARY PRISONER! HE ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE TAKEN HERE! THAT BATTLE WAS STAGED TO GIVE HIM FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN THIS PLACE!
I SHOULD BE ON MY WAY TO FIND BEN BOXER AND HIS FRIENDS, BUT I CAN'T HELP FINDING OUT WHAT TUFTAN IS UP TO-!
USAF
THE DEEPER KAMANDI PENETRATES THE STRUCTURE, THE MORE HE LEARNS ABOUT THE GORILLA PRISON---!
SO--- THE GORILLA PRISON IS BUILT ON THE REMAINS OF A PRE-DISASTER AIR BASE!
U.S. AIR FORCE ORDNANCE
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
20


IN THE DEEPEST SECTION OF THE INSTALLATION, KAMANDI FINDS THE STRUCTURE ALMOST UNTOUCHED BY TIME! THERE, TUFTAN STANDS, LOST IN WONDERMENT AND FASCINATION---!
EQUIPMENT--! ARMAMENT AND REPAIR SHOPS! ALL STILL USABLE! SO THIS IS WHAT TUFTAN IS AFTER---!
BUT THEN KAMANDI STEALS SILENTLY FORWARD---AND GASPS AT WHAT CONFRONTS HIM---!
GREAT DAY IN THE MORNING! I WAS WRONG ON ALL COUNTS! TUFTAN HAS STRUCK THE JACKPOT!
IT IS ANOTHER SURVIVOR OF THE GREAT DISASTER!---A GIANT TESTAMENT OF MAN'S ONCE GREAT DESTRUCTIVE POWER! IT STILL STANDS---AS IF WAITING TO TAKE TO THE SKIES!
PERFECT! THE PERFECT TOOL TO SERVE GREAT CAESAR'S PLAN FOR CONQUEST!
FROM YOUR DESIGN, WE'LL BUILD OTHERS LIKE YOU!
I'VE GOT TO ACT, NOW! THAT FLAMETHROWER IS JUST WHAT I NEED.
CAESAR WILL FILL THE SKIES WITH FLYING MACHINES AND CRUSH ALL WHO RESIST HIM!
TUFTAN! STAND ASIDE!
21





THEN, EXPLOSION FOLLOWS EXPLOSION AS KAMANDI AND TUFTAN RACE FROM THE HOLOCAUST WHICH IS SWALLOWING A CONQUEROR'S DREAM!
BWOOM!
22

NEXT MONTH!---

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT FEB. 15th

TUFTAN'S REVENGE! CAESAR'S ANGER! GORILLA FEROCITY---! KAMANDI FACES THEM ALL---TO FIND HIS FRIENDS!

BUT, WHEN OVERWHELMING DOOM DESCENDS TO STOP HIM, KAMANDI MUST FIND---

THE ONE-ARMED BANDIT!

THE TIME CAPSULE

By Steve Sherman

X-373

Dear Mr. Kirby,

Congratulations! I don't know whether or not you were aware of it, but the premier issue of KAMANDI was your 50th comic for DC—beginning, of course, with JIMMY OLSEN #133 (and not including JO #140, which was an annual). Again I say: Congratulations!

And now, on to the matter of KAMANDI #1. To be perfectly honest, the entire thing was one big steal from the movie **The Planet of the Apes** and its first sequel, **Beneath the Planet,** etc. A less blunt person would say that you were "inspired" by these two films.

However, I did enjoy the issue very much. Why? Quite simply, because it was well done! The art was magnificent and the story excellent. A suggestion: try to avoid the use of dividing each issue into chapters, o.k.? (Say, I really appreciated that map near the book's end. A more extensive one would be most welcome very soon).

By the way, how does all this fit in with the Legion of Super-Heroes, whose adventures take place 1,000 years hence? It's doubtful that KAMANDI occurs **before** this time, yet the scenes of New York certainly don't go along with the futuristic architecture as portrayed in every Legion story I've ever read!

Frank A. Murphy
Warwick, R.I.

Well, Frank, you can take it one of two ways—either KAMANDI takes place before the Legion stories (and everything has returned to normal) or you can accept them as two different situations, with KAMANDI existing in the "real" world and the Legion in "imaginary" Metropolis. As the stories progress, we'll try and include a more detailed map. In answer to the first part of your letter, see the next answer.

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Kirby,

Sir, you have really got something here! KAMANDI is good, very good. It has the potential to be great—if you're careful! The first drawback you're going to face with avid science-fiction nuts like me is an overwhelming similarity to **The Planet of the Apes** series of pictures. Charleton Heston practically belonged on the cover! Please understand, I'm not knocking KAMANDI, and please hurry up with the next issue!

John House
Phoenix, Ariz.

It's a funny thing, John, but KAMANDI received more **mail on its first issue than any comic Jack has done for DC. And most of them echoed the same feelings as yours—that they truly enjoyed the issue, but they seemed somewhat annoyed that Jack had used the** Apes **themes. Yet Jack has used the "talking animals" theme many times before. I'm reminded of a** Challengers of the Unknown **story where there is a war between dogs and cats, Jack's use of the High Evolutionary in** Thor, **and the fact that the original KAMANDI was done as a proposed newspaper strip in the late fifties. Granted that the success of the** Apes **movies was instrumental in the decision to bring KAMANDI out, but it would seem to me that the differences between KAMANDI and** Apes **far outweighs the similarities. But then, I'm biased. By the way (believe it or not) Jack has only seen about 45 minutes of the first** Apes **movie and he has yet to see the others. Let's see Owen Marshall put up a defense like that!**

* * * * *

Dear Jack,

The other day while swamping the comic book section, I noticed your first issue of KAMANDI. The cover alone induced me to flip through it. To make a long story short, when I had flipped up to page 2, I was awe-struck. So much so that I bought it without looking any further. The double-page spread was terrific!

I've been buying DC mags for some time (I'm what people label an aspiring young artist who loves testing his ability by copying his favorite scenes from DC), and never have I seen in any mag such a dramatic piece of art! I figure if it's got a good story, it's usually accompanied by good art. And vice versa. A story that is good with lousy art, as far as I'm concerned, gets flung into the oblivion of my trashcan. May I say that you shall never see its bottomless opening.

Dick Collier
Arlington, Tex.

Thanks, Dick. And Jack sends along his wishes for success with your art career.

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Kirby,

I enjoy reading good comics, but lately they've been hard to find. When I read KAMANDI I was quite pleased. I liked the artwork and the story. I also liked the presentation of Kamandi—a young man (about 18, I suppose) who is manly enough, but who doesn't have to be the stereotyped HE-MAN who never cries or shows any emotion other than hate. To show him as **sensitive,** not sissyish, was quite an accomplishment.

I hope you continue the series, and throw in a human girl—not a romance—as a companion. Keep up the caliber of the first issue, as it was the perfect comic book. Simple enough for kids, but not too puerile for adults.

Ms. Miriam Kurland
St. Louis, Mo.

We trust that KAMANDI will remain on your list of good comics, Miriam. ESP must have prompted you to mention a companion for Kamandi, as subsequent issues will reveal an addition to the cast.

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Kirby,

KAMANDI #1 was terrific! At first I thought it would be a cheap imitation of the old MIGHTY SAMSON series. It was neither cheap nor an imitation. There are, however, a few discrepancies I'd like to clear up. First is the map from the first issue. Such total destruction is impossible because in the event of an atomic war, only major cities would be hit, and fall-out only kills rather than mutates. Second, most of the follow-up adventures for Kamandi are concerned with animals not indigenous to the North/South American area. Third, I hope in future issues of KAMANDI that you show that some blacks have survived the war, too. Most magazines and movies with an "End-Of-The-World" theme have a disturbing way of excluding blacks from the survivors list. I hope that

KAMANDI will be different in this respect.

David Wainwright
Hollis, N.Y.

It seems as if you got the wrong idea about what caused the destruction, Dave. If you'll look back to the first issue, you'll see that it wasn't an atomic war which caused the trouble, but a natural disaster (such as a massive earthquake) coupled with some unknown radiation bombardment. Secondly, one reader pointed out that the tigers and gorillas might be "relatives" of the animals which are found roaming free in the many jungle compounds which are opening up around the country. Finally, your point about the use of black people is well taken, Dave, and we'll keep it in mind.

* * * * *

Dear Jack,

My congratulations to you, for you have really outdone yourself this time. I think the reason KAMANDI struck me this way was because I could fully understand it. With your trilogy and DEMON, it took me a few issues to comprehend and fully appreciate what was going on. KAMANDI is totally self-explanatory.

The art, as usual, was excellent, and Mike Royer has really topped his previous work with this issue.

Scott Paton
Ellicott City, Md.

* * * * *

Dear Jack,

I do like science-fiction and your new book looks great so far. I do have one question. If the animals are now high on the intelligence scale, why do the tigers ride horses? I saw fish, but no birds. Of course the action was rather heavy and a person can't expect to see a lot when he is so busy. As usual, it's great so I'll look forward to the next issue.

Brenda Hartley
Potomac, Ill.

For a moment I thought you were right about the birds, but I just flipped through the issue, and on the double-page spread, there are seagulls! Whether or not there are other species, Bren, remains to be seen. True, the horses have not evolved, but then, this isn't Mr. Ed comics!

* * * * *

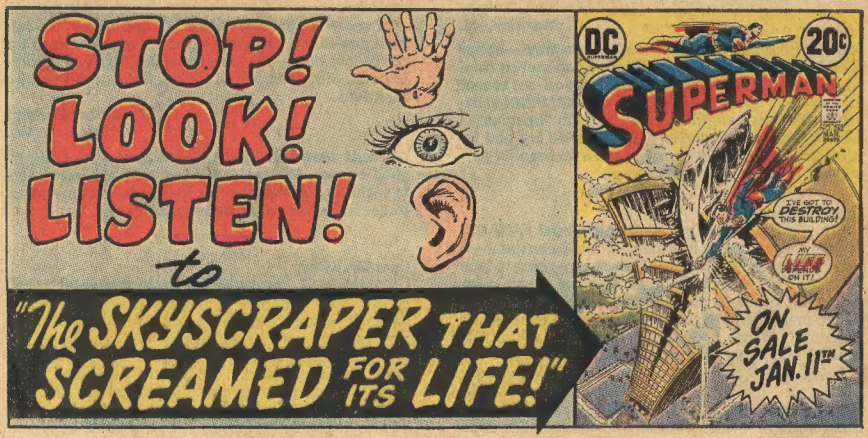
Dear Jack,

Allow me to congratulate you on your great new mag. I really dig the name. As in MR. MIRACLE and the late, lamented FOREVER PEOPLE and NEW GODS, you have created new worlds, new realms to seek out. Thus, you have done much the same with KAMANDI. You have taken this world and changed it into a barren no-man's land, which is shown beautifully by pages 2 and 3. The encounter between Kamandi and the Wolf was really very realistic, each thinking the other a wild animal.

And, coming to the end of the story, I think Ben Boxer has great potential of becoming a major character. The ending of the story was very human as Kamandi realizes he is not alone in this strange, new world.

Tim Oswald
Tacoma, Wash.

Thanks, Tim, and also to the rest who sent in letters. There are plenty more surprises in store for you and Kamandi as he continues to discover his New World. But we're still here in the Old World, looking forward to your comments on this issue. So don't be shy, just write to us at P.O. Box 336, Newbury Park, Ca. 91320. Look for KAMANDI #5 in about 4 weeks.



KAMANDI
THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!

scanned by *Wizard*